GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2503
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2004
DEMAND FOR MOBILE PHONES
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a great demand for mobile phone services being provided by the public sector BSNL and MTNL but are not able to meet the demand and the applicants are compelled to take services from the private providers;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to provide mobile phone services on demand and also to improve the quality of services?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. There is a considerable demand for mobile phone services provided by public sectors namely Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Limited (MTNL). MTNL is providing mobile services in Delhi and Mumbai alone and presently has a subscriber base of about 0.6 million. BSNL is providing mobile services through out the country except Delhi and Mumbai with subscriber base of more than 8 million as on 30th November,2004. At present, MTNL is providing Pre-Paid cellular mobile and Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) mobile connections on demand but not able to meet temporarily the demand of Post-Paid cellular mobile connections, whereas BSNL is providing Post-Paid cellular connection on demand and temporarily withholding release of Pre-Paid cellular connections due to some capacity constraints.

(c) MTNL has already installed 400K capacity network in Delhi service area and commissioning of 400K capacity network is also under progress in Mumbai service area to meet the demand and improve the quality of service in Delhi and Mumbai. Similarly, BSNL has made extensive plan for further expanding the existing mobile network by 12 million lines in the year of 2005 to provide mobile service on demand and to improve quality of service in the remaining part of the country.